

Annual Report of M.O.H.

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BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT dealing with the Vital Statistics and the Sanitary Condition of the Brixworth Rural District, comprised of 36 Parishes, having an area of 63,647 acres, and an estimated population of 11,920 persons.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—The births registered in the District during the year 1925 numbered 192, as against 186 for the year 1924, showing a rate of 16·1 per 1,000 of the population, as against 15·7 for the year 1924, and as against 18·3 for England and Wales for the year 1925. The female births exceeded the male births by twelve.

The average birth-rate for the five years 1921—25 was 17·3 as against 19·9 for England and Wales.

DEATHS.—The deaths (excluding 12 persons dying in, but not belonging to the District, and including 20 persons belonging to, but dying outside the District) amounted to 168, as against 140 in the year 1924—an increase of 28—giving a rate of 14·0 per 1,000 of the population, as against 11·8 for the year 1924, and as against 12·2 for England and Wales for the year 1925. This rate is unfortunately much higher than in recent years, but it should be taken into account that 99 or nearly 59 per cent. of the total deaths were of persons of 65 years of age and upwards, 51 of these being over 70, 29 over 80 and 1 over 90 years of age.

The average death-rate for the five years 1921—25 was 11·7 as against 12·2 for England and Wales.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—I am pleased to be able to say that this rate is lower—if only slightly—than that for the previous year, being 52·0 per 1,000 births as against 53·7, and as against a rate of 75 for England and Wales—the deaths numbered 10, of which 6 were due to non-preventable causes, viz., Premature Birth and Congenital Debility.

The average Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 births for the five years 1921—25 was 46 as against 75 for England and Wales.

TUBERCULOSIS OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.—There were eleven deaths from these diseases, as against the same number in the year 1924, or a rate of 0·92 per 1,000 of the population, as against 0·93.

The average rate for the five years 1921—25 was 0·69.

There were also three deaths from Tubercular Meningitis.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA—There were 22 deaths, as against 17 in the year 1924, giving a death-rate of 1·84 per 1,000 of the population, as against 1·44. Fifteen deaths were of persons of 65 years of age or over.

The average rate for the five years 1921—25 was 1·23.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES MORTALITY.—There were only two deaths from these diseases, giving a death-rate of 0·17 per 1,000 of the population, as against 0·50 for the year 1924. The deaths were one each from Measels and Whooping Cough. This rate is quite a satisfactory one.

The average rate for the five years 1921—25 was 0·26.

CANCER MORTALITY.—There were 23 deaths from Cancer, as against 14 in the year 1924. The death-rate was 1·92 per 1,000 of the population, as against 1·18. Seventeen deaths were of persons over 65 years of age.

The average rate for the five years 1921—25 was 1·47.

SANITARY REPORT.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

37 cases were notified during the year, as against 63 for 1924.

The average for the last 5 years being just over 52 cases per year.

SCARLET FEVER.

9 cases were notified during the year, as against 19 for 1924. 2 occurred at Boughton and 1 each at Overstone, Lower Harlestone, Moulton, Brixworth, Church Brampton, Pitsford and Walgrave.

The average for the last 5 years being just over 11 cases per year.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANEOUS CROUP.

1 case was notified during the year, as against 7 for 1924. We have not had such a low rate as this since the years 1909 and 1910 when only one case was notified in each year.

The average for the last 5 years being 7 cases per year.

TYPHOID FEVER.

No cases were notified during the year, as against 1 for 1924.

The average for the last 5 years being just under 1 case per year.

PHTHISIS AND OTHER TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.

8 cases were notified during the year, as against 22 for 1924. This is the lowest number recorded for the last 5 years, the average being just over 18 cases per year.

As regards treatment of Tuberculosis cases there is a County Scheme and this is administered by the County Tuberculosis Officer.

OTHER CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR WERE—

9 cases of Chicken-Pox, 6 of Pneumonia, 2 of Ophthalmic Neonatorum and 2 of Erysipelas.

MEASLES.

Measles was very prevalent in the District during the year, the villages chiefly attacked being Scaldwell, East Haddon, Overstone, Lamport and Hanging Houghton, Old, Moulton, Naseby, Maidwell and Draughton.

SCHOOL CLOSURES.

During the year the Schools were closed in the following villages:—Scaldwell, 3 weeks for Measles; Boughton, 14 days for Mumps; East Haddon, Overstone, Lamport and Moulton, 14 days for Measles; Old, Naseby and Maidwell, 1 month for Measles; and Thornby and Maidwell, 7 days for Influenza.

VACCINATION.

There are a very large number of unvaccinated people in the district who will be in great danger should Small-Pox break out.

NURSING.

All the villages in the district except Maidwell, Draughton and Boughton are able to get the services of a district Nurse, there is also a trained Nurse, known as the Health Visitor, who visits all the newly born babies in the district and gives the mother advice as to their feeding and general upbringing.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Isolation Hospital was opened twice during the year, in February for 3 cases of Scarlet Fever and in June for a case of Diphtheria.

From my Report you will notice that as regards Notifiable Infectious Diseases the district has been healthy, a very few cases having been notified. You will also notice that the death-rate has been very much higher than in 1924, but when you take the average for the last 5 years it is not unfavourable, being below that for England and Wales.

I have to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his hearty co-operation, and you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and support.

I am,

Yours obediently,

R. WINTERBOTHAM.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION, 1925.

Officers. One Officer as Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector.

Area—61,682 acres.

Population—11,640 ; Structurally separate Dwellings occupied 2 939.

Rooms occupied—15,526 ; Rooms per person, 1·37 ; Person per acre 0·02.

Rateable value—81,327 ; and amount of penny rate—£338 17s. 3d.

Water Supply. 8 parishes have a constant supply laid on by pipes, taps and stand pipes.

4 „ are partly supplied by pipes.

24 „ are supplied by wells and springs.

Sewers. 23 parishes are sewered
4 „ partly sewered } about 27 miles.
9 „ dual system road surface drains for slops.

Sewage Disposal. There are 26 Filtration Areas, about 38 acres, including Coton.

The Sewage in all cases flows on to the areas or to the Septic Tanks by gravitation.

5 Septic Tanks with distributors and clinker filters.

5 Screening Chambers.

19 acres of the 38 acres are cultivated.

5 acres are osier beds. 4 acres are broad irrigation. 10 acres are grassland.

Closets. 22 parishes have hand flushed W.C.'s, and a certain proportion of the better class houses have the water laid on to the W.C.'s.

2 parishes have E.C. and Pail Closets.

12 „ Pit Privies.

Schools. 19 School Lavatories are connected to the main sewers.

12 of these have tank and flushing apparatus ; 7 of these are hand flushed ; 7 Schools have pail closets, 1 E.C. and 1 pit privy.

Scavenging. A cart is sent round by the Council to collect broken crockery, meat and fish tins and other rubbish, where the Parish Councils provide a tip.

Knacker License. One License is granted in the parish of Scaldwell.

Slaughter-houses. The Council appointed a Meat Committee to consider how the 1924 Meat Regulation Orders could be carried out in this Rural District. 17 Slaughter-houses were examined ; 3 rejected as not being in good condition, 1 was rebuilt and 15 were licensed for 12 months. Forms were printed and supplied to the Butchers to notify the time of slaughtering. Afterwards the Committee considered bye-laws were necessary. The Committee obtained the Model Bye-laws and with slight alterations these were adopted by the Council on the 17th day of December, 1925, and approved by the Ministry of Health the 8th day of January, 1926. Plans for 2 new slaughter-houses have been approved. Considering the Meat Regulations have only been in force a few months and the Bye-laws not in force in 1925, the butchers have carried out the regulations satisfactory.

Cowsheds. In this Rural District with pasture land in large quantities the sheds are mostly used for milking purposes, the cows being allowed out to graze part of the day in Winter. The cowsheds are floored with brick or concrete, drained to the outside. Ventilated by half-doors or hit-and-miss windows, many are open sheds. Walls and partitions are periodically limewashed, floors and channels cleaned daily.

Milk. Samples have been taken periodically by the County Inspector and no complaints made.

Bakehouses. There are 24 bakehouses in this district. No complaints.

Overcrowding. The Council are considering erecting 10 houses where overcrowding does exist. hope this will relieve the overcrowding of this parish and that other parishes will receive attention. Cause of overcrowding—House Shortage.

Housing. 31 Plans submitted—Subsidy houses, 12 ; Private houses, 8 ; Alterations, 11.
Houses completed during 1925, 20—Subsidy 12, Private 8.
„ in course of erection „ 16 — „ 10, „ 6.
Prospective Houses for 1926, 36—10 houses by the Council, 4 Private, 22 houses assisted Subsidy. Alterations—7 finished, 4 in hand.

Flushing. The Council with their own water cart flush the sewers every 14 days.

Notices. 2 Notices were served on two owners as regards 3 houses under Sect. 15 (3) 1909 Act. The Council did the work at 2 houses, 1 standing over.]
Statutory Notices 6.
Informal „ 53.

TABLE I.

BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1925, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population Estimated to Middle of each Year	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Of Non-Residents registered in the District	Of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
								Number	Rate per 1,000 Births	Number	Rate
1919	10,941	169	14·8	149	13·6	15	18	13	76·9	152	13·8
1920	10,941	262	22·9	129	11·7	13	19	12	45·8	135	12·3
1921	11,640	219	18·8	141	12·1	27	16	13	59·3	130	11·1
1922	11,640	225	19·3	131	11·2	21	23	6	26·6	133	11·4
1923	11,660	197	16·8	124	10·6	17	14	8	40·6	121	10·3
1924	11,790	186	15·7	137	11·6	18	21	10	53·7	140	11·8
1925	11,920	192	16·1	160	13·4	12	20	10	52·0	168	14·0

Total population at all ages ... 11,920
Area of District in Acres ... 63,647

TABLE II.

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1925, CLASSIFIED BY AGE AND CAUSE.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District
	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	
Measles ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	a 2
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Whooping Cough ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	
Influenza ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	11	...	...	...	...	3	4	3	1	8 (a 7, b 1)
Tubercular Meningitis ...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	
Cancer, Malignant Disease	23	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	17	
Rheumatic Fever ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	11	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	7	b 1
Heart Disease ...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	12	b 1
Arterio-sclerosis ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	b 1
Bronchitis ...	14	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	12	
Pneumonia (all forms)	8	1	2	...	...	1	1	...	3	
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	b 1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Suicide ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	
Other Deaths from Violence	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	b 1
Other Defined Diseases	51	3	1	...	...	1	...	7	39	b 5
Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
TOTALS ...	168	10	3	1	2	10	12	31	99	20

(a) "Non-residents" at Northampton County Borough Hospitals

(b) "Residents" at the Infirmary, Brixworth.

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1925.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Premature Birth	...	}	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3	
Congenital Debility	...		...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	3	
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	
TOTALS			...	4	...	1	...	5	3	1	1	...	10

Nett Births in the year	{	legitimate	...	189
		illegitimate	...	3
Nett Deaths in the year	{	legitimate	...	9
		illegitimate	...	1